

We've finished the February 16, 2016 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecasts update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of February 16, 2016.

The forecasts are posted at:

B120: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up>

Forecast Summary:

The projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 65 percent on the Tule and Kern rivers to 103 percent on the Mokelumne River. On average, the forecasts for the Sacramento River Region, San Joaquin Region, and Tulare Lake Region decreased by 6, 7, and 7 percent, respectively. These large drops are due to a week with no precipitation **and** melt in the lower elevations. All major Sierra river basins saw a decrease in the forecast. The largest decrease was 8 percent on the Tuolumne and Kings rivers and the smallest decrease was on forecasts for the Sacramento River above Bend Bridge and the Shasta Lake inflow (5 percent).

Runoff:

Through the first 15 days of February, no river is flowing at a greater than average rate. The Mokelumne, Tuolumne and Tule rivers are flowing at a rate over 90 percent of average. The percent of average flow for the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge and the Merced, San Joaquin, and Kern rivers is less than 65.

Precipitation:

Precipitation for the 2015-2016 water year accumulated at the following rates of average:

Region/Index	WY accumulated precipitation (%) through February 18, 2016
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	108 (34.3 inches)
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	107 (26.8 inches)
Tulare Basin 6-Station Index	108 (19.0 inches)

Snowpack:

The snowpack as of the morning of February 18, 2016 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

Region	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)	% of Average (Apr 1)	% of Average (Feb 18)
Northern	22.6	78	97
Central	21.5	76	96
Southern	17.0	66	87
Statewide	20.4	74	94

After a warm and dry 2-week period with some melt, the snowfall Wednesday night brought the snow water content back to where it was on February 1.

Weather and Climate Outlooks:

The 6-day weather forecast indicates a total of less than 1.5 inches today and tomorrow north of the Cosumnes River. Also indicated is less than 0.7 inches in the San Joaquin basin today (no precipitation expected tomorrow). Freezing levels over the northern Sierra are expected to increase from the current level of about 5,500 feet to over 11,000 feet by Monday. Freezing levels over the central and southern

Sierra are expected to increase from the current level of about 6,500 feet to over 12,000 feet by Monday.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month outlook for March, issued February 18, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation statewide except for the northern fifth of the state where equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. The same outlook predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures over the entire state.

The CPC three-month (March-April-May) outlook, issued February 18, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation statewide except for the northern third of the state where equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. As with the one month outlook, the three month forecast predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures statewide.

El Niño conditions are present. Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies continue across most of the Pacific Ocean. A transition to ENSO-neutral is likely during the late spring or early summer 2016 with a possible transition to La Nina conditions during the fall.

Next Update:

A Bulletin 120 update for conditions as of February 23 will be available Thursday, February 25. If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff.

Important Links:

Full Natural Flow Data:

Daily FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF

Monthly FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM

Seasonal FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT

Precipitation Data:

Latest Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=8SI&d=today>

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=5SI&d=today>

Snow Data:

Latest Snow Sensor Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>

Latest Statewide Summary of Snow Water Equivalents

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Extended Regional Forecasts:

California Nevada River Forecast Center 6 Day QPF and Snow Level Forecast

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOHD6RSA.php>

Climate Prediction Center One-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Outlook Forecasts

http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.html

Weather Forecast Office California Service Area-Products

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/forecasts.php>

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Conditions and Weekly Discussion (including La Niña)

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

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